

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks which follow.

DISPOSITION OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-6, 8-42, and 61-63 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 61 have been amended as set forth above. Claims 43 and 44 have been canceled in this reply.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-44 and 61-63 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,419,952) in view of Dong et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,800,422). Claims 42 and 43 have been canceled in this reply. Claim 7 was canceled in a previous response. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 7, 42, and 43 is moot. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-6, 8-42, and 61-63 is respectfully requested.

The examiner asserts that the arguments submitted on October 15, 2006, are not persuasive because the evidence relied upon as a showing of unexpected results is not commensurate with the scope of the claimed invention. The claims have been amended as set forth above to be commensurate with the evidence relied upon as a showing of unexpected results. With respect to usage of the term “hydroxyethylcellulose” in the claims, it is respectfully noted that the term “NATROSOL” first appears in paragraph [0005] of the specification as originally filed. In this paragraph, “NATROSOL” appears in parentheses immediately after “hydroxyethylcellulose.” This suggests that the term NATROSOL and hydroxyethylcellulose can be used interchangeably and/or that NATROSOL® is a source of hydroxyethylcellulose. There is nothing in the NATROSOL® hydroxyethylcellulose disclosure provided by the examiner to suggest that the showing of unexpected results would not hold for any hydroxyethylcellulose, including those available under the trade name NATROSOL®.

Because the claims have been amended to be commensurate in scope with the evidence relied upon as a showing of unexpected results, the claims are now patentable over Wong et al.

in view of Dong et al. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6, 8-42, and 61-63 over Wong et al. in view of Dong et al. is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that this paper is fully responsive to the Office Action dated December 1, 2006, and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please apply any charges not covered or credits in connection with this filing to Deposit Account No. 50-3202 (ref. ARC3162R1).

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Respectfully submitted,

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